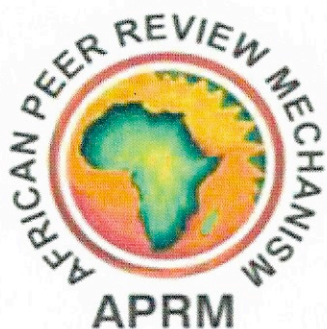


**FRAMEWORK OF COLLABORATION
BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM
AND
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**



PREAMBLE

The Continental Secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), headquartered in Midrand, South Africa, and the Open Government Partnership (OGP), headquartered in Washington, United States of America (the Parties), are both committed to improving governance for the betterment of the lives of African citizens. The Institutions conducted bilateral talks in 2018, and agreed to pull efforts together to collaboratively improve governance and empower the voiceless in Africa:

The ***African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)***, is an African Union Organ and the continent's self-monitoring and peer review tool for promoting good governance. It is voluntarily acceded to by Members States of the African Union (AU) for self-monitoring, peer learning and peer-assessment mechanism. It has been conceived, established and supported by African leaders after realizing that good governance is the only prerequisite to sustainable and inclusive development of Africa. As the first innovative and ambitious initiative, APRM monitors governance in the four key thematic areas; i.e. Democratic and political governance, Economic governance, Corporate governance and Socioeconomic development. It executes this mandate by assessing the performance of African states that are members of the Mechanism through a review process with the goal of assisting member states to improve on the policies that affect their governance, rectify the deficiencies, adopt best practices and comply with established standards and principles.

The ***Open Government Partnership (OGP)*** is a global partnership that brings together reformers from government, civil society, academia and other stakeholders committed to making their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Launched at the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, the partnership has grown to 79 participating national governments and 20 local governments.

Reaffirming the desire to work together in areas of mutual interests;

Bearing in mind the challenges of governance require concerted efforts to achieve good governance as a means to better people's' lives and attaining sustainable development for all African citizens;

Cognizant of the strategic position of the APRM as an Organ of the African Union tasked with monitoring governance in Africa and providing a governance information platform for the African continent;



Aware of parallels between the APRM and OGP processes, including common member states in Africa and a shared vision of empowering citizens and uplifting lives through improving governance in member states;

Agreeing that the two institutions can complement and strengthen each other;

Hereby conclude this technical partnership as follows:

ARTICLE I PRINCIPLES

The relationship between the APRM and OGP shall be a Technical Partnership that is based on the following principles:

- a. Equality of partners;
- b. An African-led process;
- c. Pursuit of the AU shared values and aspirations; and
- d. Pursuit of the African transformation agenda especially in attaining better governance through aspirations 3 and 4 of Africa's Agenda 2063.

ARTICLE II SCOPE

- 2.1. The scope of this Technical Partnership shall be guided by the respective mandates of the two Institutions, considering their common vision, goals and other comparative advantages.
- 2.2. The parties shall, from time to time, agree on the programmes and activities that will be carried out jointly.

ARTICLE III KEY AREAS OF COLLABORATION

- 3.1 The key areas of collaboration of this Technical Partnership shall focus on the implementation of the APRM mandate including the following:
 - a. Support the implementation of APRM recommendations through the APRM National Plan of Actions (NPoAs) and OGP Action Plans;
 - b. Encourage collaboration between APRM National Structures and OGP National Multi-Stakeholder Forums for governance reform consultations and implementation of APRM recommendations;
 - c. Encourage and support countries to voluntarily accede to both Institutions;
 - d. Support and encourage countries to implement programmes and reforms



- to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals especially Goal 16;
- e. Support and encourage countries to implement programmes and reforms on gender, anti-corruption, and public service reforms;
 - f. Undertaking joint activities in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, South Africa and any other agreed countries;
 - g. Carrying out joint work in communicating the shared goals of strengthening governance in Africa;
 - h. Any other activities as may be agreed by both Institutions.

ARTICLE IV MODALITIES OF COLLABORATION

- 4.1 The Parties further agree to collaborate in the areas identified in Article III of this Framework through mechanisms agreeable to them.
- 4.2 The OGP recognizes that the APRM plays a significant role for the achievement of an improved governance in Africa, and as such APRM has been elevated by the African Union (AU) to be a Specialized Agency to support African countries in establishing good governance and as an Independent Monitor for the implementation of both AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Agenda 2030.
- 4.3 Accordingly, both parties concur that:
 - a. There is need for this Technical Partnership and the realization of synergies between OGP and the APRM
 - b. There is a need to establish coordination between both Institutions to harmonize duplicate activities to allow for a greater impact and shared realized outcomes;
 - c. To encourage for OGP National Processes to take advantage of the APRM Tools and Processes such as the APRM Questionnaire, the Country Self-Assessment Reports to inform the process of developing the OGP Commitments; and
 - d. To encourage OGP National Processes to use the APRM to convert the recommendations into actionable commitments.
- 4.4 If the implementation of specific activities requires co-financing, the Parties shall conclude appropriate co-financing agreements in accordance with the applicable APRM and OGP regulations, rules and procedures, which shall specify the costs or expenses relating to the activity and how they are to be borne by the Parties. This Technical Partnership is not tied to any specific funding or financial obligation.
- 4.5 The designated technical focal points within the two institutions shall jointly develop indicators against which implementation of the Technical Partnership shall be assessed.



- 4.6 The focal points shall meet at least twice a year to review implementation of the activities and evaluate progress based on pre-defined indicators of achievement.

ARTICLE V COLLABORATION IN THE ORGANIZATION OF EVENTS

For maintaining the spirit of this Technical Partnership, the parties endeavor to jointly organize events on harmonization of activities in member countries and implementation of recommendations/commitments and shall engage in constant consultations in relation to their respective calendars of meetings with a view to strengthening their efforts.

ARTICLE VI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Parties recognise the importance of protecting and respecting intellectual property rights. This Technical Partnership does not grant the right to use any work created outside the framework of this Partnership, of which one Party is the author or holds the intellectual property rights.

Any work created within the framework of this Partnership of which one Party is the author or holds the intellectual property rights will remain the sole property of that Party, with the other Party having a licence to use that work for the purposes of this Partnership.

Intellectual property rights over any joint work created by the Parties' collaborative activities under the Partnership of which both Parties are the authors will be jointly held by the Parties. Each of the Parties may use and reproduce this work separately, subject to an appropriate acknowledgement of the other Party's contribution to the work and provided that each Party will seek the written consent of the other before granting any license to a third party. Without prejudice to the above, any translation or joint publication will be subject to a separate written agreement by the Parties.

Unless there are reasons for joint work not to be acknowledged, the Parties undertake to acknowledge each other's contribution on joint outputs, publications or at co-organized events, by displaying the APRM and OGP logos appropriately for that output (and in line with each Party's branding guidelines).

ARTICLE VII DISCLOSURE

The Parties may disclose to the public this MOU and information with respect to activities carried out under this Partnership in accordance with the Parties' relevant policies.

Any sharing of confidential information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies and procedures relating to the disclosure of confidential information. Each Party will take any action to protect confidential and/or classified information of the other Party.

ARTICLE VIII RESPONSIBILITY



Each Party will be responsible for its activities and for its staff members, including for their acts and omissions. In particular, a Party will not be liable for any damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party or that other Party's staff.

However, if a damage or injury arises out of or results from the actions carried out by one Party (the "First Party") or its staff, the First Party will hold the other Party and its staff harmless from any resulting claim or damages.

For the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM):

Prof. Eddy Maloka

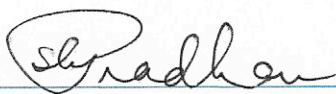
Chief Executive Officer, APRM Continental Secretariat

Signature:  Date: 30-05-2019

For the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Sanjay Pradhan

Chief Executive Officer, Open Governance Partnership

Signature:  Date: May 30, 2019

